Recommended Management Questions for the San Luis Valley-Taos Plateau Landscape Assessment

	Management Question	Model / Assessment Type	Difficulty[1]
A. Soils and Air Quality			
MQA1	Where are Class I PSD areas?	Conservation Element Characterization	1
MQA2	Where are soils of concern (including coarse-textured, calcic saline, sodic, and shallow soils; salt crusts, low water holding capacity soils, soils susceptible to wind erosion, and biological crusts)?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQA3	Where are sensitive soils vulnerable to change agents (human development (including agriculture), climate change, fire, and invasive species)?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQA4	Where are communities and hydrologic basins susceptible and/or sensitive to fugitive dust and dust-on-snow events?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQA5	Where are CAA criteria pollutant source areas: PM10, PM2.5, O3, and visibility/regional haze?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
B. Hydrology			
MQB1	Where are and what are the conditions of hydrologic features including lotic and lentic features and artificial surface water bodies (e.g., perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and springs; playas; wetlands; lakes; reservoirs; wells; ponds; livestock and wildlife watering tanks)?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQB2	Where are impaired waters and aquatic systems (such as those included in the EPA 303(d) and 305(b) lists)?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQB3	Where are mountain snow pack, rainfall, and alluvial aquifers and their recharge areas?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQB4	Where are hydrologic features vulnerable to change agents?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQB5	Where are the areas that are susceptible to early snow melt due to dust on snow?	Conservation Element Characterization	3
MQB6	What are seasonal discharge maxima and minima for the Rio Grande, Closed Basin, and major tributaries at gaging stations?	Conservation Element Characterization	4
MQB7	Where are the confined and unconfined recharge or discharge areas?	Conservation Element Characterization	4

	Management Question	Model / Assessment Type	Difficulty[1]
C. Ecological Systems Conservation Elements			
MQC1	Where are existing vegetative communities?	Conservation Element Characterization	1
MQC2	Where are vegetative communities vulnerable to change agents in the future?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQC3	Where are areas of highest carbon sequestration and what are conditions and trends of carbon sequestration in the study area?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	3
MQC4	What change agents have affected existing vegetation communities?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	4
MQC5	How will vegetation communities be altered (e.g. state-in-transition) according to the change agents?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	4
D. Focal Species Conservation Elements			
MQD1	What is the current distribution and status of available and suitable habitat for focal species Conservation Elements?	Conservation Element Characterization	1
MQD2	What is the current distribution and status of aquatic, terrestrial, and riparian biodiversity sites, and special status species?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQD3	Where are focal species vulnerable to change agents in the future?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQD4	Where are aquatic, terrestrial, and riparian biodiversity sites, and special status species vulnerable to change agents in the future?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQD5	What is the current distribution and status of big game crucial habitat and movement corridors (including elk, mule deer, and pronghorn)?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
E. Wildfire			
MQE1	Where has wildfire has occurred in the past 20 years?	Change Agent Characterization	2
MQE2	Where are the Fire Regime Condition Classes?	Change Agent Characterization	2
MQE3	Where is fire adverse to ecological communities, features,	Conservation Element	2

	Management Question	Model / Assessment Type	Difficulty[1]
	and resources of concern?	Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	
MQE4	Where are the areas with potential to change from wildfire in the future?	Change Agent Characterization	3
MQE5	Where is fire likely to change in relation to climate change?	Change Agent – Change Agent Assessment	3
MQE6	Where might fire interfere with future human development (e.g., development risk)?	Change Agent – Change Agent Assessment	3
F. Invasive Species			
MQF1	Where are areas that invasive species occur or could potentially occur (e.g. tamarisk, Russian Olive)?	Change Agent Characterization	2
G. Human Development and Resource Use			
MQG1	Where are linear recreation features such as OHV roads and trails?	Change Agent Characterization	1
MQG2	Where are Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) and permitted uses such as grazing and wood gathering?	Conservation Element and Change Agent Characterization	1
MQG3	Where are the locations of irrigated lands	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	1
MQG4	Where are high-use recreation areas, (High Intensity Recreation Areas (HIRA's) SRMAs, National Parks, etc)?	Change Agent Characterization	2
MQG5	Where are areas of current and planned development (e.g., plans of operation, urban growth, wildland-urban interface, energy development, mining, transmission corridors, governmental planning)?	Change Agent Characterization	2
MQG6	Where are federally owned water rights that are adjudicated for wildlife and irrigation?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQG7	Where are areas of potential future development (e.g., under lease), including renewable energy sites and transmission corridors?	Change Agent Characterization	3
MQG8	Where are areas of potential human land use change (e.g., agricultural fallowing)?	Change Agent Characterization	3
MQG9	What are the conditions and locations of surface and groundwater rights?	Conservation Element Characterization	4

	Management Question	Model / Assessment Type	Difficulty[1]
MQG10	Where are current conservation efforts prohibiting human development?	Change Agent Characterization	4
MQG11	Where is the acoustic environment affected by human development	Conservation Element Characterization	4
H. Climate Change			
MQH1	Where are areas with greatest long-term potential for climate change?	Change Agent Characterization	2
MQH2	Where have conservation elements experienced climate change and where are conservation elements vulnerable to future climate change?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	3
I. Human and Cultural Elements			
MQI1	Where do areas of cultural resource management and protection occur (National Monuments, ACECs, National Historic Landmarks, World Heritage Areas, Los Caminos Scenic and Historic Byway, etc)?	Conservation Element Characterization	1
MQI2	Where are known historic properties, traditional cultural properties, and sacred sites and landscapes?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQI3	What are the traditional cultural land use patterns?	Conservation Element Characterization	2
MQI4	Where are known historic properties, traditional cultural properties, and sacred sites vulnerable to change agents	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQI5	Where are high potential areas or high density areas for historic properties that address the highest priority research goals?	Conservation Element Characterization	3
MQI6	Where is cultural landscape connectivity vulnerable to change agents (human development, fire, invasive species, climate change)	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	3
MQI7	Where are sensitive socioeconomic populations and how are they affected by change agents?	Conservation Element Characterization	3
J. Landscape Intactness			
MQL1	What is current and future predicted landscape condition?	Terrestrial Landscape Condition Model	3
K. Visual Resources			
MQK1	Where are specially designated/managed areas with associated visual resource	Conservation Element Characterization	1

	Management Question	**Model / Assessment Type**	**Difficulty[1]**
	considerations/mandates/prescriptions?		
MQK2	Where are visual resource inventoried areas with high scenic quality, public sensitivity for scenic quality, and distance zones where people commonly view the landscape?	Conservation Element Characterization	1
MQK3	Where are night sky values and where are they vulnerable to change agents (NPS inventory)?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQK4	Where are scarce scenic quality values and where are they vulnerable to change agents?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	2
MQK5	Where are current Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) classes and where are they vulnerable to change agents?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	3
MQK6	Where are current Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes and where are they vulnerable to change agents?	Conservation Element Sensitivity Assessment to Change Agents	3

[1] Difficulty was ranked based on the level of complexity needed to assess the management question, as follows: 1 = Simple. Source data may be easy to obtain and comprehensive throughout the study area, little processing of the source data may be needed before evaluation, and the assessment does not involve any modeling; 2 = Moderate. Source data may be difficult to obtain or may not be comprehensive throughout the study area, source data may need to be processed before evaluation, or the assessment may involve the some minor geoprocessing or modeling; 3 = Difficult. Source data may be difficult to obtain or may not be comprehensive throughout the study area, source data may need to be processed before evaluation, and the assessment may involve complex geoprocessing or modeling or may be out of scope; 4 = Reconsider. MQs that may be deleted or may need further discussion on the basis of being out of scope or lack of data.